

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY'S STATEMENT REGARDING N.C. HOUSE APPROVAL OF
FREEZE OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TAXES**

"I commend the House for their quick action to save North Carolina businesses over \$100 million in the coming year," said Easley. "Once the Senate gives their approval, this money can be plowed back into the economy to create jobs and reduce the demand for unemployment insurance.

"This is one of many steps the state is taking to transition our economy as federal trade policies continue to export North Carolina's jobs.

"It is absolutely essential that we understand the importance of small businesses in North Carolina. Over 150,000 of North Carolina businesses employ 50 or fewer employees."

Yesterday, Easley announced the creation of a Small Business Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding the climate for small businesses within the state.

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